



City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Application Number: 3011906
Applicant Name: Greg Brant
Application Number: 2301 W Raye St

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to subdivide one development site into two unit lots in an environmentally critical area. The construction of residential units has been approved under Permit #414483 (1952). This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots.

The Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) requires the following approvals:

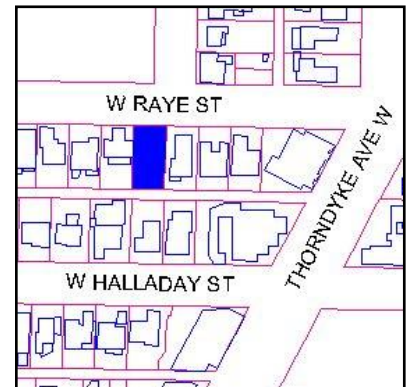
Short Subdivision — to create two unit lots pursuant to SMC 23.24.045.

SEPA — Environmental Determination pursuant to SMC 25.05

SEPA DETERMINATION: ☐ Exempt ☒ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS
☐ DNS with conditions
☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition
or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

The subject site is on the southern block front of the 2300 block of W Raye St, in the Magnolia Neighborhood. The rectangular shaped site is 50.04' wide and has a depth of 99.4'. The site encompasses a land area of 5,000.5 square feet, located in a Lowrise 1 (L1) zone. W Rays St is improved with right-of-way pavement, sidewalk, curb, gutter and drainage. The site is mapped as a potential slide area, with a southeast area mapped as a steep slope area; making the site subject to the regulations for Environmentally Critical Areas.



Proposal Description

The applicant proposes to subdivide one parcel into two lots. Proposed lot sizes are: A) 2,644.9 square feet and B) 2,355.6 square feet. Pedestrian and vehicle access is from W Raye St.

Public Notice and Comment Period

Public notice of the project application was given on February 24, 2011 and the comment period ended on March 9, 2011. The Land Use Application file is available for review at the Public Resource Center located at 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 2000 (<http://seattle.gov/dpd/PRC/LocationHours/default.asp>).

ANALYSIS - SHORT SUBDIVISION

Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the Director shall, after conferring with appropriate officials, use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions;*
2. *Adequacy of access for vehicles, utilities, and fire protection, as provided in SMC 23.53.005;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of SMC 25.09.240, short subdivision and subdivisions, in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*
7. *Conformance to the provisions of SMC 23.24.045, unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing.*

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from the Department of Planning and Development, Drainage Section, the Fire Department, Seattle Public Utilities (City Light and the Water Department), and review by the Land Use Planner, the following findings are made with respect to the above-cited criteria:

1. Because this is a unit lot subdivision, development standards apply to the parent lot. There is no minimum lot size requirement in the Lowrise zone. The density standard stated in SMC 23.45.008 is met for the development as a whole. The proposal conforms to applicable development standards. Hence, the proposal is deemed to comply with applicable Land Use Code requirements. Any additional new construction would be required to meet development standards of the Land Use Code for the parent lot.
2. The lots are provided vehicular access from W Raye St, consistent with the requirements of the Land Use Code.

Seattle City Light provides electrical service to the subject property and has indicated that an easement is required for overhead and underground infrastructure. If an easement is required by Seattle City Light it shall be included on the final plat prior to recording.

The Seattle Fire Department has reviewed and approved this proposal for adequacy of access for emergency vehicles.

3. This area is served with domestic water, sanitary sewer, and storm drain facilities by the City of Seattle. Availability of water service is subject to conditions as imposed by Seattle Public Utilities Water Availability Certificate No. 20110109, issued on February 23, 2011.

New construction with discharge to the sanitary sewer will require a side sewer permit. Plan review requirements regarding stormwater were made at the time of building permit application.

4. One objective of the subdivision process is to increase opportunities for new housing development in order to ensure that there will be adequate capacity for future housing need. An equally important objective is to ensure that new development is compatible with neighborhood character. The proposed subdivision will meet all the applicable Land Use Code provisions. The proposed development has adequate access for vehicles, utilities and fire protection, and has adequate drainage, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal. Therefore, the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed subdivision of land while also maintaining the character of the neighborhood. The proposal will meet all applicable criteria for approval of a short plat upon completion of the conditions in this analysis and decision.
5. The site is mapped as an environmentally critical area (Potential Slide Area and Steep Slope Area), thus the proposal is subject to the provisions of the Critical Areas Ordinance 25.09.
6. The subdivision could not be designed or changed in a way that would retain more trees than the proposed design. Thus, the proposal has been designed to maximize the retention of existing trees on the property. Future construction will be subject to the provisions of SMC 23.44.008 and SMC 25.11 which sets forth tree planting requirements and tree preservation regulations on single family lots. Based on the applicant's information, there are no significant trees located on the site.
7. SMC 23.24.045 provides that sites developed or proposed to be developed with townhouses, cottage housing developments; residential cluster development and single-family residences may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards. However, as a result of this subdivision, development on the individual lots may be non-conforming. To assure that future owners have constructive notice that additional development may be limited due to nonconformities; the following statement shall be required to be included as a note on the final short subdivision:

"The unit lots shown on this site are not separate buildable lots. Additional development on any individual unit lot in this subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code, Chapter 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code."

Summary - Short Subdivision

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from DPD, Water (SWD), Fire Departments (SFD), Seattle City Light (SLC), and Parks and review by the Land Use Planners, the above cited criteria have been met subject to the conditions imposed at the end of this decision. The lots to be created by this short subdivision will meet all minimum standards or applicable exceptions of the set forth in the Land Use Code, and are consistent with applicable development standards. As conditioned, this short subdivision can be provided with vehicular access, public and private utilities and access (including emergency vehicles). Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The subject property contains a Potential Slide Area and a Steep Slope (Environmentally Critical Areas, ECA). Future construction will be reviewed under the ECA Regulations. The public use and interest are served by the proposal since all applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for additional housing opportunities in the City.

DECISION - SHORT SUBDIVISION

The proposed Short Subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED**. See the conditions at the end of this report.

ANALYSIS – SEPA

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area, thus the application is not exempt from SEPA review. However, SMC 25.05.908 provides that the scope of environmental review of projects within critical areas shall be limited to: 1) documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) regulations in SMC 25.09; and 2) Evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations. This review includes identifying additional mitigation measures needed to protect the ECA in order to achieve consistency with SEPA and other applicable environmental laws.

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the Seattle State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated February 15, 2011 and annotated by the Land Use Planner. The information in the checklist, pertinent public comment, and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; and reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file. As indicated in this analysis, this action will result in adverse impacts to the environment. However, due to their temporary nature and limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced, may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states, in part, “*Where City regulations have been adopted to address and environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*” subject to some limitations. Short-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposal. No adverse long-term impacts on the environmentally critical area are anticipated.

Greenhouse Gas

Gas producing activities include site user vehicle commutes, the operation of on-site equipment and machinery using fossil fuels — resulting in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to significantly increase the greenhouse gas emissions contributed from this proposal.

Short-term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts to the environmentally critical area are expected: 1) temporary soil erosion; and 2) increased vibration from construction operations and equipment. These impacts are not considered significant because they are temporary and/or minor in scope (SMC 25.05.794). Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposed project will provide sufficient mitigation and no further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to applicable SEPA policies.

DECISION - SEPA

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

[X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2)(C).

CONDITIONS—SEPA

None required.

CONDITIONS - SHORT SUBDIVISION

Conditions of Approval Prior to Recording

The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall:

1. To assure that future owners have constructive notice that additional development may be limited due to nonconformities; the following statement shall be required to be included as a note on the final short subdivision:

“The unit lots shown on this site are not separate buildable lots. Additional development on any individual unit lot in this subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code, Chapter 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code.”

2. Provide the required Seattle City Light easement for electrical facilities and service on the final plat.
3. Unless alternative arrangements are approved by Seattle Public Utilities, install one water meter for each unit lot.

Signature: (signature on file)
Colin R. Vasquez, Senior Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development

Date: April 11, 2011